

YUFOS
YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 2 #8, February 1999)



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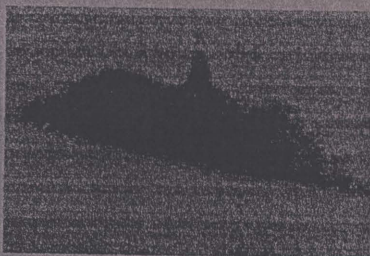
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YUFOS



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YUFOS magazine

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*"This is a Local magazine for Local people...there's
nothing for you here...!"*

STILL IN DEFAULT (Part 5)

by Bruce Maccabee

The general skeptical attitude of scientists -- or at least of journal editors -- toward UFOs has resulted in the appearance of several "debunking" articles in major journals over the last 35 [47] years. One of these articles appeared in a major technical journal, *Applied Optics*, in November 1978. (Reference 15) The article purported to explain glowing UFOs sighted in the Uintah Basin, Utah, in the middle 1960s as swarms of insects in flight through electrostatic fields which caused corona discharge from the antennae, legs, and other appendages of the insects. I have called this "the buggy UFO hypothesis" (abbrev.: "BUFOH"). The originator of the BUFOH, Dr. Philip Callahan, an entomologist at the University of Florida, was interviewed on several news shows. Even the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite gave the *Applied Optics* paper some coverage.

Within 2 weeks of the appearance of the article I had written a letter to the editor in which I pointed out errors in the paper, errors both in interpreting the cited cases as being sightings of insect swarms and errors in scaling the physics from laboratory-sized experiments with single insects to swarms in free flight. The editor turned down my letter. However, he did say that he felt a valid response to the article probably should be published to be fair to the subject, but he was going to wait for all the responses before deciding and then pick the best one. Thus, although I was "put on hold" I nevertheless had a "moral commitment" from the editor that something rebutting the BUFOH article would be published.

As fate would have it, while I was arguing with the editor of *Applied Optics* over a response to the BUFOH article, events halfway around the earth were taking place which would change the situation considerably. I refer to the [then] famous New Zealand sightings, and, in particular to those of December 31, 1978, which were multiple witness sightings that featured (a) 16 mm color movie film, (b) ground and airborne radar detections, (c) a news crew recording the events as they occurred, and (d) the air crew and the radar operator being recorded by the ground radar station at Wellington, New Zealand.

I investigated these sightings first by phone and then "on-site" in New Zealand and Australia. After the investigation I discussed the sightings with a number of scientists and then compiled a large report. Because interest in the sightings had been worldwide, I wrote a short paper based on one portion of the sightings and sent it to *Nature* (published in England). In early May 1979, I received a letter which said that the paper was rejected for lack of space and because, according to the editor, it "...has to be part of a much larger survey that is presumably being conducted" (i.e., "get lost"). Unfortunately, he gave me no hint as to where the presumed survey was being conducted,

In the meantime, I received a letter from the editor of *Applied Optics*. As of March 19 he had received no other comments on the BUFOH, so he wrote "...inasmuch as your manuscript is the only rebuttal I have received... I suppose a version of your manuscript could be that rebuttal." When I received his letter I considered rewriting my rebuttal letter, but at the same time I was "full time" on the New Zealand case, so I delayed. Then, when my paper was rejected by *Nature* I got an idea. I decided that I could try to take a chance with the editor of *Applied Optics*.

In early May I submitted a revised version of my New Zealand paper with a letter in which I pointed out that, although the paper did not respond directly to the BUFOH article it nevertheless "...contains some physical data about an unusual light

source and, since the data are primarily of an optical nature, the article is suited to your journal."

To my great delight the editor bought this argument and, in August, my paper was published. (Reference 16) To close the "buggy" chapter of the story, however, I should point out that eventually the editor did receive another response to the BUFOH. That response was also published in August. (Reference 17)

I have always believed that the appearance of my paper was a "lucky accident" that resulted from the combination of (a) the appearance of Callahan's article and my attempt to rebut it and (b) the publicity surrounding the New Zealand sightings. I do not believe that it was a result of a liberal attitude toward UFO articles on the part of the editor, who referred to "UFO believers" as "99 and 44/100ths percent kooks."

When I had finished writing my short Applied Optics paper, several months before it was published, I had sent a copy to William Ireland, a scientist in New Zealand. He disagreed with my point of view and so he and another scientist wrote a short article in which they criticized my claim that the object was unidentified. They claimed that the object discussed in my paper was merely a squid boat. I received a copy of their paper for publication in Applied Optics during August and reviewed it at the request of the editor. Then the editor offered me a chance to rebut Ireland.

I submitted my rebuttal in September so that it could be published in December along with the article by Ireland and Andrews. It was too long for the editor's "taste" so he asked me to shorten it and return it quickly. However, by that time I had arranged for some photos of squid boats to be taken in New Zealand, so at the end of October I wrote a letter- to him saying that I wanted to wait until after the tests and then submit a revised paper. I expected my paper would be ready in a

month or so and would be published in the early spring of 1980. But I was wrong.

In December 1979, Applied Optics published the paper of Ireland and Andrews. (Reference 18) Early in January 1980, the editor and I both received a letter that is the "personification" of resistance on the part of scientists to an unbiased treatment of the UFO subject. The letter was from a prominent optical scientist. He began his letter by thanking Ireland and Andrews for "their trenchant discussion -one might more accurately say destruction -- of Maccabee's earlier report." He went on to say that "...as an individual concerned over the widespread public acceptance of pseudoscience, I would not like to see Applied Optics inundated with a flood of communications of this calibre,"

He went on to indirectly criticize the editor by saying that the "only useful conclusion" from the two short papers is that "the initial letter (paper) shouldn't have been published." [Note that this scientist did not complain about the earlier publication of the "buggy UFO hypothesis" even though he would have realized, had he thought about it, that the optical theory presented in that paper was "buggy" to say the least.]

Needless to say, this criticism gave the editor second thoughts about publishing my response. I immediately wrote to the critic and also to the editor to express my position on the matter. I also enlisted the aid of another well-known scientist who took my side in the argument that I should at least be allowed a rebuttal.

Eventually the critic relented and wrote to the editor that, in spite of his "...personal conviction that this is a scientifically foolish piece of work," my rebuttal should be published "...with the confidence that making it available in print will simply let others reach the same judgement." In August 1980, my rebutting paper was published along with a statement by the

editor that this would close the discussion.(Reference 19)

Having "learned its lesson," Applied Optics has carried no further UFO-related articles. However, the papers that were published are of some historical significance because, for the first time in history (to the best of my knowledge), a refereed science journal published a series of technical discussions of a single UFO sighting. Unfortunately, another journal was not as "liberal."

In May 1980, the Journal of Atmospheric and Terrestrial Physics (JATP), published in Britain, included a paper (submitted in the summer of 1979) by a Canadian atmospheric scientist, Dr. William Lehn, entitled "On the Sighting of Distant Unidentified Objects." (Reference 20) Lehn discussed the Dec. 30, 1978, New Zealand case as reported shortly after the sightings in several Canadian and U.S. newspapers, and claimed that "...notably absent from all the reported theories was any consideration of atmospheric refraction phenomena. " Lehn was wrong. Atmospheric refraction effects had been discussed in New Zealand newspapers shortly after the sightings.

In July of that year I submitted a short (6 pages, double spaced) paper to the journal that criticized Lehn for using only a few newspaper accounts and also pointed out a number of reasons for rejecting the atmospheric refraction (i.e., "mirage") hypothesis. The journal editor sent my paper to a referee who responded as follows:

I have read the enclosed short note by B.S. Maccabee entitled 'On the New Zealand Sightings of December 1978.' The article has been written in response to a paper published in JATP in May 1980 by W.H. Lehn. This article unlike that of Lehn, contains no real science and as such cannot be accepted for the Journal.

Sightings of unidentified objects are unfortunately often vague and imprecise and sometimes contradictory. I do not consider that this article contributes in any way towards a true scientific explanation of the phenomena described. It may be suitable for a newspaper but not for a scientific journal."

In case you haven't already guessed, I wasn't particularly happy with this response. I rewrote the paper and resubmitted it in October, noting that the referee had not rejected my paper on technical grounds ' but rather on philosophical grounds because it did not contain "real science." I wrote in my letter:

"I wonder what the referee considers to be 'real science.' Is it real science to allow an incorrect explanation to stand unchallenged in a respected, refereed journal such as JATP? I dare say that if a published paper contains errors in logic or mathematics, experts in the particular field addressed by the paper do not hesitate to write articles pointing out the errors, and journals do not hesitate to publish the articles,..."

I then pointed out that Lehn's paper seemed to be largely speculation based on a small amount of information, whereas my paper was based on much, much more information and contained the results of a calculation of brightness based on hard (photographic) data.

It therefore seemed unfair for the referee to "...bestow upon Lehn's paper the accolade 'real science'" and to reject mine as unscientific.

I did not hear from the editor again until December 1980. He then said that he had submitted all of the correspondence and my papers, as well as the opinion of the first referee to a second referee. According to the editor, the second referee basically agreed with the first. The second referee pointed out that it was unlikely that there would be "an agreement on an explanation of the N.Z. 'sightings' and until the experimental facts are sorted out more

clearly, arguments and counter-arguments should be dealt with by correspondence between the contestants themselves and not in the open literature... I support without hesitation the rejection of this paper."

In spite of this opinion of the second referee, the editor indicated that he would like to send my material to Dr. Lehn before making a final decision. I wrote back to say that I approved of his decision to consult Dr. Lehn before a final rejection and that I intended to send Dr. Lehn even more material on the sightings. By the end of January 1981 I had a letter from Dr. Lehn thanking me for the material I had sent.

I heard no more until May, a year after Lehn's paper was published. The editor sent me a copy of Dr. Lehn's reply, which was generally negative. The matter would have ended there except for an unexpected (by myself) turn of events: William Ireland of New Zealand, who had written the critical Applied Optics article, had also submitted a letter that criticized Lehn's paper. Therefore, the editor had two authors' to satisfy as well as Lehn and the referees. He decided upon a "middle ground." Neither my paper nor Ireland's would be published in full. Instead, short summaries of each would be published along with an editor's comment that would, effectively, end the discussion in the journal.

I had no choice but to agree with this. At the end of May, 1982, I sent a short summary. After that I had some correspondence with Lehn in early 1982. But, to the best of my knowledge neither my summary nor Ireland's was ever published. (I checked every issue for two years after 1981 and finally gave up.)

More recently (1985) I have submitted to Applied Optics a paper that presents an optical analysis of a photo which shows a bright "something" nestled in a hole in the clouds. The color slide was taken from an altitude of about 36,000 ft. by a former Royal Canadian Air Force pilot, R. J. Childerhose, in 1955. (It only became

available for analysis in 1984, however.) Since this photograph is endorsed by none other than skeptic Philip Klass as being a true unconventional phenomenon (he suggests that it is a huge plasma-like "ball lightning"), I thought naively that I would have no problem getting the article published. However, it has been rejected twice. It was rejected initially because the reviewer thought it could be a subsun. I explained that the location of the sun was not correct for it to be a subsun. The second reviewer thought that it was actually a reflection of light from a lake. Neither of these explanations takes into account the pilot's claim that the phenomenon remained motionless in the clouds as he flew by it. I have resubmitted my paper with some new information and analysis, but I am not holding my breath.

[Update to 1998: The paper was rejected a third time when the second referee refused to understand that the pilot flew in a straight line past the object, i.e., the sighting angle from the plane to the object rotated to the right, like driving past a telephone pole, whereas a reflection of the sun in a lake stays in a constant direction relative to the flight path of the aircraft. Also, a solar reflection in a lake as viewed from 36,000 feet, with the sun low on the horizon, is very reddish, whereas the unidentified bright object was very white. The paper was not published.]

Sic Transit Gloria Science.

CONCLUSION

I have tried to demonstrate how science has failed humanity in two ways related to UFO phenomena: First, scientists have been so skeptical of UFO phenomena that they have been willing to propose (and others to accept) explanations which are unconvincing at best and incorrect at worst. Second, scientists have been so skeptical that they haven't allowed publication of the UFO data for rational, open analysis by the general community. That is, since the "early days" scientists have participated in a self-cover-up.

Because UFO articles which argue that something truly unusual is involved are almost always rejected by refereed journals, most of the "non-debunking" articles that scientists see are in the news media (and in UFO organization journals which, however, do not reach many scientists). Such treatments are generally rather shallow and unconvincing.

Furthermore, whenever there is a sighting which attracts a lot of interest the news media give equal weight to sighting descriptions and to explanations by "experts," even if the explanations are ridiculous or wrong. The mere fact that explanations are proposed leads the science community to believe that explanations are at least possible.

A prime example or rampant explanation is the New Zealand case of December 31, 1978. Immediate explanations which were widely publicized were Venus (no: sightings were half an hour before Venus rose), Jupiter (no: film evidence proves it wasn't Jupiter), "unburned meteorites" suggested by Sir Bernard Lovell (no: the duration was many minutes, not seconds), refraction of distant lights (no: sightings angles were too far from the horizon or else not in line with any known light sources on the horizon), lights along the coast (no: wrong directions, not bright enough, wrong colors), light reflected from birds (no: bird reflection would be far too dim), and light from a squid boat (no: there was no known boat located near the flight path of the plane and images on the film are not the same as images of a squid boat).

Because so many explanations were offered, some scientists I talked to had concluded that the sightings had been explained. It was only after I spent some time describing what happened that they began to question the accuracy of their initial impressions. From the point of view of most scientists the controversy in the news media over any particular sighting is unconvincing. Therefore, the subject as a whole has been perceived as being of little scientific importance.

Given the "UFO situation" vis a vis science, it is not surprising that I have had difficulty in getting papers published. I expect that my experience is not unique, but others just haven't written about their attempts to publish papers in refereed journals. Yet, as long as the self-cover-up is in force, the science community will remain generally unaware of the "raw deal" scientists have given the UFO subject (and UFO witnesses in particular, since they have borne the brunt of the attack by scientists who claim UFO sighters are "99 and 44/100 percent kooks").

Things may not be as bleak as they seem. Many of the new generation of scientists are taking a more active interest. It seems that it will be only a matter of time before someone stands up and says "Look, the emperor has no clothes," at which point the ostriches will pull their heads out of the sand and say, "Oh yeah, we knew that all along." After that science will no longer be in default. However, it will have a lot of catching up happen soon? Tune in next year in Washington, D.C., and find out. "Forty Years is Long Enough." [Note: the last sentence, written in 1986, refers to the (then) future MUFON Symposium which was held in July, 1987 in Washington, DC. Oddly enough, as I write this in 1998, I can again make the same statement .. "tune in next year", because the 1999 MUFON conference will again be in Washington, DC. But this time the slogan will be "Fifty Years is Too Long".]

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APOCALYPSE **REALLY SOON**

Is it the End of the World as - We Know It?

(Found at www.ABCNEWS.com)

Jan. 5 -- As the year 2000 creeps ever closer, millennialist cults are becoming ever more frenzied.

Many of them are convinced that the world will end or transform itself soon after next Jan. 1.

Israel's decision this week to deport 11 members of a Denver-based cult called Concerned Christians shows how seriously the authorities there take the fervor. The group, whose members were holed up in Jerusalem apartments, allegedly planned mayhem that would unleash the second coming of Christ.

And Concerned Christians is not alone.

Back in the United States, according to a 1997 Associated Press poll, nearly 25 percent of adult Christians -- more than 26 million people -- believe that Jesus Christ will return to Earth in their lifetimes and set in motion the horrific events laid out in the biblical books of Revelation and Daniel.

Some of those people join religious groups fixated on the end.

"People who expect the world to end soon do a lot of very strange things," writes Ted Daniels, director of the Millennium Watch Institute, who has more than 1,200 cults in his database. "They reject and even contradict the rules of common sense that keep the rest of us sane and feed our lives. "They destroy the things they need to survive. They provoke fights they can't possibly win, and they talk about things that obviously won't happen."

The groups themselves are often secretive and hard to track down. Nevertheless, ABCNEWS.com has put together this quick guide to some of the more prominent millennialist groups:

Sukyo Mahikari: A secretive Japanese group said by former members to spread a neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic dogma, it has established itself as a charitable organization in England. A group leaflet says as the year 2000 approaches, "mankind might be annihilated by the baptism of fire."

Similar language turned up in Aum Shinrikyo materials. Aum Shinrikyo was the cult famous for the deadly sarin gas attack in Tokyo. A spokesman for Sukyo Mahikari has denied the cult is linked to Aum Shinrikyo or that it is anti-Semitic.

The House of Yahweh: A former kibbutz worker named Jacob -- now Yisrael -- Hawkins started the House of Yahweh, a group that prophesies that the end of the world will arrive very soon if the laws of Yahweh set down in the Bible are not universally obeyed, and the temple in Jerusalem not rebuilt to lie side by side with the Dome of the Rock Mosque. Hawkins has about 3,000 followers who believe he will announce the second coming of Jesus before being murdered by Satan.

Concerned Christians: This group, whose members were ordered deported from Israel, was started by Monte Kim Miller, who used to run an anti-cult network in Denver. People who know the cult say Miller believes he is the last prophet on Earth before Armageddon. Miller, who reportedly believed he talked to God each morning before he went to work, was said to claim that America was Satan and the government evil. Miller has predicted he will die on the streets of Jerusalem in December 1999 but will rise from the dead three days later.

Order of the Solar Temple: Since 1994, more than 74 members of the Order have committed suicide in Canada, Switzerland

and France, leaving behind rumors of gunrunning in Australia and money laundering in Canada and Europe. Whether the group is a cold-blooded hoax that milks its victims of their money and then disposes of them or a more "genuine" suicide cult remains unclear. The Order was founded in 1977 by Luc Jouret, then 30, a Belgian born in Zaire who believed he was a third reincarnation of Jesus Christ and that his daughter Emmanuelle, whom he said was immaculately conceived, was the cosmic child. Although he killed himself, the Order still exists. The cult teaches that life is an illusion and after death followers will be reborn on a planet revolving around the dog star Sirius.

Church of the Final Testament: Started in the early 1990s by a former Russian police sergeant named Sergei Torop who was dismissed from the force after he had a series of religious visions, the group holds particular fascination for former Communist Party members. Torop, who took the name Vissarion, rejects prohibitions on suicide. He tells his followers he is Jesus Christ, and looks the part with flowing dark hair and wispy beard. Currently building a "City of the Sun" on Siberia's Mount Sukhaya, the Vissarionites are estimated to be the largest cult-like group in Russia with thousands of followers. Russian politicians have recently warned that the Church members may commit mass suicide as the millennium approaches.

Elohim City: Barely 50 miles from President Clinton's former home of Little Rock, Ark., lies the fortress-like town of Elohim City, where about 100 heavily armed inhabitants work, pray and conduct paramilitary drills. A former Mennonite preacher named Robert Millar, 73, who envisions a white Christian nation in North America, runs Elohim City in anticipation of an Asiatic invasion of the United States, an attack he considers inevitable. Millar, inspired by fundamentalist Christianity, KKK-style racism and astrology, believes that Christ has been revealing himself for the last two millennia. He also preaches

that a series of disasters is about to strike, probably soon after the year 2000, during which time the unworthy and wicked will be cleansed from the Earth. Convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh phoned friends of his in Elohim City before the blast.

Outer Dimensional Forces: Founded by the reclusive Orville T. Gordon, 90, the ODF believes that the United States is in for trouble. Gordon, or Nodrog as he is known, explained in an interview that the CIA attacked the ODF 20 years ago, and the group's heavenly allies will flood the United States very soon, whisking the ODF faithful safely away from their fenced-off Texas compound.

Center for Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence: If you are ever wandering the neighborhood of Asheville, N.C., at night and see a group waving flashlights at the sky, you may have stumbled upon Dr. Steven M. Greer and the Center for Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Greer, an emergency-room physician, takes groups of UFO enthusiasts out into the wilderness, where they encourage UFOs to land with a combination of lights and positive thinking.

Greer is convinced aliens want to share technology with humanity in the new millennium but that the federal government is hostile to them and that "black ops" programs have attacked flying saucers.

"People who expect the world as it is to end soon do a lot of very strange things."
-- Ted Daniels, director of the Millennium Watch Institute

MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW WILLIAMS

[truthseekers@btinternet.com]

Date: 19th October 1998

To those concerned... here is my statement on our activities. I hope people see the positive side to all of this - because there really is one. =Love Matthew & Paul

I Matthew Williams admit that during the summer of 1998 I made crop circles in the United Kingdom.

This effort was undertaken in order to continue research into the circles phenomena and follows on from limited circlemaking which took place in 96 and 97.

The *initial* reasons for undertaking this research are as follows:

1. To determine how easy or hard it is to make complex formations.
2. To observe the reactions of researchers in the crop circle fraternity and to see how good their senses are for the recognition of man made circles.
3. To ascertain if there is a form of communication observable between circlemakers via pattern progression. This includes human and "alien" or "spirit" intelligences.
4. To observe if there were any unusual effects observable of an anomalous nature whilst making a circle - as has been stated on many occasions by other human circlemakers.
5. To understand the phenomena of circlemaking and its effects from a different perspective - that of a circlemaker as opposed to researcher.
6. To ascertain if various other claims of previous human circlemakers were true.

The need for secrecy in our work was paramount so as not to change our results or effect the reactions of public or circles researchers. This was not an attempt to "HOAX" people - merely a need to maintain status quo, so as to establish a control sample from which we could gauge reactions.

We did inform some researchers of what we were doing and even some close friends. We obviously did not then refer to these people in our observations as they were no longer part of the control. Some people are offended because "they were not told". Well this is a fact they would have to deal with. As far as we are concerned we told only those that we considered important enough. Now that the "secret" is out, we are happy to talk more openly about our results. Hopefully this will satisfy the questions of those who were not given privy to inside knowledge.

RESULTS: It was clear that a few months into the circlemaking season that as we progressed in our endeavours that our group of circlemakers was changing its opinions and motivations as to circlemaking. This also progressively effected a change in the initial questions that were being asked by us.

We observed many unusual phenomena in and around the fields whilst making circles. We noticed changes in our outlook on life whilst making the circles and got a sense that we were in communication with a much higher intelligence regarding the responses to our circle designs - ie: other circles which appeared as an apparent response to circles which we created.

I will not go into to greater detail about what exactly these life altering changes were as some of this is still sinking in for me, the realisations still far too fantastic for me to feel comfortable writing about.

However I can say that due to special coincidences which took place - which included the creation of almost exactly the same types of designs appearing in different parts of the country on the same

nights as we were working, we had to conclude that human circlemakers (ourselves included) were being given inspiration from a higher source for their designs.

Due to this change in attitude we then started to see circlemaking as a form of sacred art which has a higher purpose. This is how I still currently regard the subject. Our circles were regarded by the circle research community as genuine.

We witnessed many measurable effects such as dowsability of the crop circle after creation. These tests were undertaken by both ourselves and independent researchers - albeit not to a scientific standard, but to a near enough level for our benefit.

UFOs and other paranormal events were perceived in and around the areas where we were making circles whilst we undertook their construction.

Whilst making circles we became aware that we were being protected by some unseen force or intelligence whilst we worked. This was evidenced many times to us and even took on the form of making us invisible and inaudible to people standing on the edge of the field we were working in. (We at first found this very very disconcerting having thought that we had been caught out by either members of the public or circles researchers, only to find out that we could not be seen or heard!) Maybe this is why no human circlemakers have ever been caught.

People also experienced various equipment failures in our circles and strange video and photographic evidence has been collected by circles researchers and public.

CONCLUSIONS: We believe Crop Circles to be a sacred form of art whose purpose is to mystify people and cause them to ask questions of themselves about their spirituality and the nature of the universe. Without the circles -whoever the creators are then such questions would not be asked.

Crop circles do represent a tangible paranormal attractor and emitter.

We think that the message of the higher intelligence behind inspiration for crop circles and subsequent paranormal activity contained therewithin is entirely benign and friendly in nature.

The circles we made and considered by us to be genuine in both their undamaged nature - how we were able to achieve non damage to plants with use of our "stomper" boards (in the case of some, but not all, circles) is 'a magical effect.

The subject grows in dynamism and interest due to human involvement - as it human involvement that is a heavy part of the circle phenomena. There is probably a non human intelligence working alongside human circle makers to create some circles outright. IE the original phenomena still remains creating circles - a fact to which ALL human circlemakers agree. This is a very worthy point to note! Evidence to this come in the form of additions to circles which appear in the morning.

There are further conclusions that will be revealed as we compile our results.

RECOMENDATIONS: Anyone wishing to take part in creating circles must do so with reverence and attempt to maintain a very high standard of work. They should not discuss the details of their work with anyone outside their team - so as not to lose the magical effect for public observers. It is an old adage that authorship causes circles to lose they mystique. Mystique can be a shamanistic way to draw people towards a greater realisation through a occult act (in some cases). *please take the word occult in its literal sense, not a sinister sense*

I am sure that those who do ask for guidance get it. Ask with humility and you may be surprised to see your circlemaking ability improve radically. When circles are made with the wrong intent they look bad and do not have paranormal effects attached to them (sometimes they do but in

a lessened quantity - or warped/strange effects are observed).

Good luck everybody....

I think this information only goes to make the circle phenomena bigger than it ever was before. Circle researchers should at last now embrace these facts and get on board - see the bigger picture and we should all be thankful that circles have for those who are prepared to take seriously what they read here.

Love and enlightenment

Matthew Williams & Paul Damon
EDITORS TRUTHSEEKERS REVIEW

OVER HALF OF ALL BRITONS BELIEVE IN ET

BBC News Sci/Tech

1-13-99- Just over half of Britons believe in extra terrestrial life. According to a survey for the popular science magazine Focus, 50.2% of people said alien life must exist in the universe somewhere.

"Belief in alien life is no longer only the preserve of the lunatic fringe," said the magazine's editor, Paul Simpson. "Many scientists now believe that given the rate at which we are discovering new planets, it is more likely that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe."

"I think the view is that, at some point, we will get a radio signal that will prove there is intelligent life out there," he told BBC Radio GMR in Manchester.

The influence of the X Files TV series is clearly evident in the poll with people deeply suspicious of the authorities. 80 per cent said the government would not tell us if it knew alien life existed.

The results of the survey also vary according to sex, age, region and social class. Women are slightly more sceptical than men. Only 43% of people in the North West believe in aliens while 65% in the South West and 58% in East Anglia do.

Pensioners are the most likely group to insist there is no intelligent life out there.

FURBY ALERT!!!

First, they foiled thousands of weary parents, desperately scouring store shelves to buy their kids "the" holiday toy. Now, the government's spy agency has said Furby toys could threaten the national security.

The National Security Agency has banned the popular pets from its Fort Meade premises in Maryland.

In an internal message to workers, the NSA issued a warning about the toy, which is embedded with a computer chip that allows it to utter 200 words - 100 in English and 100 in "Furbish."

"Personally owned photographic, video and audio recording equipment are prohibited items.

"This includes toys, such as 'Furbys,' with built-in recorders that repeat the audio with synthesised sound to mimic the original signal. We are prohibited from introducing these items into NSA spaces. Those who have should contact their Staff Security Office for guidance."

Because of its ability to repeat some of what it hears, NSA officials were worried "that people would take them home and they'd start talking classified," one Capitol Hill source told the Post.

SPACE VEHICLE PROPULSION DEVICES

By Iain M. McCafferty

As some of you will already know, my interests in space are not only confined to the UFO phenomenon. I was sufficiently interested to undertake a degree in Physics With Space Science & Technology, where I not only learned about the methods of Space Science and how to put together a manned space mission, but also a lot about the technology used in them. Not only that, but I learned a great deal of Astrophysics during my time at University. Within the YUFOS group, this probably makes me ideally qualified to conduct an analysis of the theories of how UFOs seem to miraculously propel themselves across the sky. (And needless to say, the vast interstellar between their home planet and Earth.)

Before I do that, I'll give you a bit of background information on the wonderful world of Space Science, and more specifically, the area of it that we are interested in, the science of Rocketry. For anyone who has more than a passing interest in this area, I highly recommend that you find and read *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Space* edited by Michael Rycroft. I found it highly useful during my degree course, and it's not heavy going, either. Some of the propulsion methods outlined here you will find described in more detail there.

As sciences go, rocketry is fairly young. Even though small-scale rockets have been used in warfare since the 15th Century or earlier, substantial research did not begin in earnest until the early 20th Century, after the First World War. The science of Rocketry did not really advance very far until the Second World War, when some

truly brilliant work was done by the German rocketry team, headed by Hermann Oberth and Werner Von Braun at Peenemunder. Despite all of advancements made there, it took nearly another 25 years for Man to reach the Moon, though having made studies of documents found at the German research station at Peenemunder, if World War Two had lasted another six months, the Germans would have had rockets capable of putting a tonne of high explosives (or a nuclear bomb) from the east coast of the Atlantic all the way to New York. Another six months beyond that, and they could've put a man in orbit.

The work done at Peenemunder was so advanced, it took the Americans and the Russians over five years just to understand it, and another ten to get to the point where they could seriously think of putting a man in space

Rockets currently fall into two basic categories, Solid Fuel rockets, and Liquid Fuel rockets. There are also Hybrid rockets, which use both solid and liquid fuels, but as those can only be used inside planetary atmospheres, they are of little interest here, since we are mainly interested in rockets that could be capable of propelling UFOs from one star system to another.

Solid fuel rockets are exactly what they sound like. Rockets that use solid fuels to propel themselves. The booster rockets used by the Space Shuttle are the most famous example of these types of rockets. All rocket fuels are designed to work in the absence of atmospheric oxygen, so rocket fuels are formed of two things, a basic fuel, and an oxidant. The fuel is what is burnt to provide thrust, whilst the oxidant is a substance that provides the oxygen for the fuel to burn. Solid fuels are usually in the form of powders, which are combined with a plasticising agent to make them like rubber. For anyone interested in the actual chemical make-up of solid fuels, here you go; 50-65% Nitrocellulose, (fuel) 25-45% Nitroglycerine, (oxidant) 5% Plasticiser (approx.)

The solid rocket boosters on the Space Shuttle are something different, though. They use ammonium perchlorate as the oxidant, and perhaps more surprisingly, aluminium as the fuel! The ratios for those interested are; 16% Aluminium, 70% Ammonium Perchlorate and 14% polybutadiene. (plasticiser)

Matter/Anti-Matter reactions could be employed to generate various types of energy, if the reaction could be regulated in certain ways. The most useful, and most likely of these reactions would be to produce gravity waves (also known as gravitons) to manoeuvre the vessel. Using graviton fields would make UFO behaviour as observed in the Belgian incident possible, as you could control the release of gravitons at will from a variable Matter/Anti-Matter reaction. With sufficient technology, you could also eliminate the effects of such accelerations within the ship itself, by setting up a static gravity field within the ship itself, opposing the accelerations acting upon the ship itself. The crew would then be unaffected by the outside acceleration acting on the structure of the ship. Employing a Matter/Anti-Matter engine to produce gravitons would be the most logical use of such a system, since all objects interact using gravity, using a gravity (or anti-gravity) propulsion system would reduce the complexity of the control systems of a UFO, allowing a UFO to manoeuvre at will, by simply altering its gravitational potential within a planet's gravity by adjusting the power output of the Matter/Anti-Matter reaction.

Liquid fuel rockets are more common than solid fuel rockets, and are debatably the more reliable. Again, the fuel is made of two parts, the fuel and the oxidant, stored in separate tanks, mixed just prior to combustion. Generally, most liquid fuel combinations are hypergolic, in other words, they combust on contact, for example, hydrazine and nitrogen peroxide are hypergolic. There are many liquid fuel combinations, the most obvious example being a hydrogen/oxygen mix, which again, is used for the main engines on the

Space Shuttle. The advantage of this particular fuel is that it can provide a supply of water on extended manned missions. Other examples of liquid fuels are combinations of oxygen and UDMH (Unsymmetrical DiMethylHydrazine) or oxygen and MMH (MonoMethylHydrazine) plus other more exotic mixtures.

Each type of fuel has its own advantages and disadvantages. Solid fuels are very stable and provide very high amounts of thrust. Unfortunately, solid fuel rockets are a one shot deal. They can only be used once, and once you start a solid fuel rocket burning, there's no way to stop it. It'll keep burning until the fuel runs out. They are, however, easier to store than liquid fuels, some of which are not only toxic, (such as nitrogen peroxide) but are corrosive (like nitric acid, which is used in combination with paraffin oil) and fuels like hydrazine and UDMH are biohazards as well as carcinogens. (Cancer causing.) Liquid fuel rockets, however, can be turned off and on, like the shuttle's main engines, or their OMS (Orbital Manoeuvring System) and RCS (Reaction Control System) vernier thrusters used for fine tuning of orbits. In general, liquid fuels do not provide as much thrust as solid fuels, but burn a lot longer.

The main disadvantage of using either solid or liquid fuel rockets is that you are constrained in how far you can travel by the amount of fuel that you can carry. For this reason, it is technically unfeasible for UFOs to use either solid or liquid fuels to travel the vast distances between star systems. The size of fuel tanks needed would make a vessel powered in such a way impractical due to its sheer size. In addition, using chemical engines, it is only just possible to transfer a mass from the Earth's surface into orbit, due to the relatively high gravitational field of the Earth. (Anyone who wants an overview of the mathematics involved, contact me and I'll give you the details. Otherwise, take two aspirin and have a stiff drink. Trust me, you don't want to know the tedious details.) The short version is that if you

start from the Earth's surface, only 8% of the original mass (or less) can make it into orbit. Even less, if you want the object to go anywhere beyond Earth orbit. This is only achieved by using multi-stage rockets, which jettison the "dead" mass of the spent fuel tanks. If you wanted to get an object beyond the solar system from the Earth's surface, only 1% of the starting mass of the rocket could be the payload. The only objects mankind have been able to propel beyond the solar system are the Voyager and Pioneer probes, both at the limit of the weight these types of engines could propel something beyond our star system. The weights of these probes are of the order of a few hundred kilos, and it will take a few thousand years for these probes to even come near another star system. Therefore, it is obvious that these rocket types will never be able to take a manned ship beyond the solar system, if the starting point is the Earth's surface. Building a manned ship in Earth's orbit essentially gets around the problem of the Earth's gravitational field, but again, you would need a vast fuel supply to get beyond the solar system, and to reach a speed that would enable a ship to reach another star system within the lifetime of the crew.

Due to the fuel payload requirements and the inefficiencies of chemical (liquid or solid) rocket engines, it is unlikely that they could be used to fuel manned (or aliened) vessels from star system to star system, since they cannot provide enough thrust to generate the speeds necessary to traverse the many light years between star systems (the closest of which, the Alpha/Proxima Centauri system is roughly 4 light years away) in anything less than a few hundred years at best, even from an orbital start point.

If UFOs indeed come from other occupied star systems, they must be powered by other means, in order to account for their ability to cover such distances in so short a time to make a manned mission feasible, and also to account for the infamous erratic manoeuvring patterns UFOs have been observed to perform.

There are many alternative rocket propulsion systems that are in development currently. These include MHD (Magneto-Hydro-Dynamic) engines, Ion thrusters and the related Field-Effect ion thrusters, Laser or Photon engines, solar heated engines and solar sails, electric propulsion units, and nuclear fission engines.

MHD engines are a relatively new innovation, and use an electrical field to create a plasma (an electrically charged gas) from a solid fuel (like Teflon) and a gas (such as hydrogen) between a pair of electrodes, where the electrically charged gas forms a magnetic field between the electrodes to propel the gas between them, providing the thrust. Again, these type of engines are constrained in their range by their fuel supply, and initial trials have only yielded very small thrusts (less than a Newton; one Newton is the equivalent of 100 grams weight in Earth's gravity) compared to the energy input. The energy requirements to produce the kind of thrusts required for interstellar travel are phenomenal, and this rules this propulsion method out for an explanation of UFO propulsion.

Ion thrusters use a propellant fuel heated by an electrical generator and ioniser to produce electrically charged atoms, which are passed through an electromagnetic accelerator to provide a thrust from the momentum of the accelerated ionised atoms. Like MHD engines, Ion thrusters "burn" for a long time, and can provide thrust for long periods, but the actual thrusts produced are small, within the range of a few hundred Newtons at most. This again rules them out for UFO propulsion, since the power they provide is too small, and cannot account for the massive instantaneous thrusts necessary for the UFO's observed high-g manoeuvres.

Laser engines and photon engines use the pressure provided by photons (light particles) hitting a "sail" to provide thrust for a space vessel, similar to that of a solar sail (or sun-jammer, to use their alternative title), though laser engines use

an electrical source to generate the photons for thrust, whereas a sun-jammer uses sunlight to provide the photons. The disadvantages of using laser or photon engines are that the power requirements of the electrical generator are huge to generate the required photons. 300 megawatts (300 million watts) of electrical power (much greater than the average power station) are required to provide just 1 Newton of thrust. Until the inefficiencies of these engines are solved, they will remain in the theoretical realm. The same can be said of the sun-jammer, or solar sail. Because of the tiny momentum that a photon (light particle) has, huge amounts of photons are required to provide even the slightest thrust. Theoretical models require solar sails of over 10km square to make space travel feasible. The engineering requirements of building such a construction are well beyond current levels of technology, and such construction would have to take place in orbit. In addition, since the power source of the "engine" would be the Sun, the thrust provided on the sail would correspondingly decrease the further away you moved from the Sun, making interstellar travel impractical.

Solar heated engines would also have the same constraints, where solar energy is used to heat a fuel source in a heat exchanger to provide a thrust for the vessel. Also, your range would be limited by the size your fuel supply.

Electrical propulsion engines work on a similar principle to the laser engine, though the electric generator is used to provide heat to ignite a liquid propellant, rather than to generate photons. These engines are more efficient than laser engines (producing 5 Newtons for an initial power input of a few kilowatts), but still could not be used to travel large distances, at current efficiencies. As with most other propulsion methods, fuel supply is also a consideration, and as with all of the propulsion types mentioned above, it is impractical for use on vessels for use outside the solar system, though

they might be useful for exploring the other planets with the Sol system.

Of the possible propulsion types mentioned above, only nuclear fission engines can generate anything like the power required on a long term basis which would be needed to move a space vessel beyond the solar system. Nuclear engines could either be used to generate heat to combust hydrogen for propulsion, or to produce photons or ions for either a photon or ion based propulsion system. NASA conducted trials researching the possibility of using nuclear fission based engines for rocket vehicles, but abandoned the project because of safety considerations. In the event of a failure, the environmental consequences of a fission based engine would be dire, and also, the long term safety of a human crew operating in such close quarters to a nuclear reactor also need to be considered. It's no use getting a human to another star system if they all die from cancer a few years later.

None of the above propulsion systems could account for the power requirements and the thrusts necessary for UFOs to conduct manned operations away from a distant home planet within a reasonable mission lifetime (5-20 years) to travel from "home" to Earth, and back to "home."

However, there are two, strictly theoretical, propulsion methods that have not entered trials with any Space Agency on Earth which could not only make such interstellar travel feasible, but also account for the manoeuvres that UFOs have been seen to perform. (For example, the instantaneous 43-g acceleration observed by Belgian F-16 pilots in 1992 during the Triangle over Belgium incident.)

The first of these is a nuclear *fusion* engine. As those who have any knowledge of astrophysics will know, nuclear fusion is the power source that fuels the Sun. Whilst fission breaks up large atoms into smaller ones to liberate energy, fusion combines two small atoms (like hydrogen)

into a single larger atom (like helium, in the case of hydrogen fusion) to produce energy. Fusion can produce far more energy than fission, and is also more environmentally friendly. In the case of hydrogen-helium fusion, the energy source can be seawater, where the by-product is oxygen. Fusion power is also many times more efficient than nuclear fission, and if you can produce a sustainable reaction, the power available is only limited upon your initial fuel supply. Fusion power would most likely be used in conjunction with a photon engine. Given the vast power available to a fusion engine, the inefficiencies of the photon engine would hardly matter.

Nuclear fusion is currently being researched at the JET (Joint European Torus) facility in Geneva, where it is estimated that a sustainable fusion reaction is at least 40-50 years away. Even so, such a power source would certainly be available to a race with the technology to traverse the distances between two inhabitable star systems. However, a fusion engine would unlikely be able to provide the massive accelerations that have been observed during UFO sightings if it were to be used with a photon propulsion source.

The alternative power source that UFOs could use other than fusion power, is a Matter/Anti-Matter reaction engine. Matter/Anti-Matter reactions are almost 100% efficient, and a fuel source of only a few hundred grams would provide a power source in excess of 100 million watts. Such a power source would make interstellar travel possible with ease, and would make speeds very close to light-speed for a spacecraft a reality.

The safe regulation of such a reaction poses a problem, given the explosive relationship matter and anti-matter have for each other, though storage of the anti-matter itself would be simple, using what we call in physics "a magnetic bottle". A magnetic bottle is a 3-d magnetic field in the shape of a cylinder, but where the two ends of the magnetic

field tighten at the top and bottom. Given that the amount of fuel needed would be very small to power such a vessel interstellar distances (no more than a few kilograms) this would seem to be the most logical method of UFO propulsion, as it is an immensely powerful energy source, which requires a tiny amount of fuel, leaving plenty of room for other consumables such as food and oxygen.

Efficient though nuclear fusion is, a ship powered in such a method would require relatively large stores of the fusion reactants on a long voyage. If an interstellar journey were to be undertaken, it would make sense to use the power source that takes up the least space or weight on the ship. On both these criteria, a Matter/Anti-Matter power source would win hands down. Not only that, using gravity waves liberated from the matter/anti-matter reaction, you could eliminate the effects of weightlessness in space, by directing some of the gravitons to provide artificial gravity within the ship. This would be of major benefit, as the detrimental physiological effects of spending protracted periods in weightlessness are well known. Russian Cosmonauts that spent periods of over 8 months in zero-g suffered calcification of the bones, and muscle wastage. Some of these Cosmonauts found it very difficult readjusting to living within a relatively heavy gravitational field, for example, having difficulty walking or standing, and also inner-ear and balance problems. These problems could be eliminated using the method described above.

Scientists have been working upon the theory of anti-gravity engines since the early 1950 s, though it is not known how far such research has progressed, and such devices are certainly not under development for use by NASA or the Russian Space Agency, for example. It would be unlikely in the extreme that such engines are in use at the moment, because the power source required has not been invented by human hands yet. Whilst we are certainly aware of the existence of anti-matter, and knowledgeable of the

theories of how a matter/anti-matter reaction engine would work, there is one formidable obstacle to actually building one. Anti-matter can currently only be produced in the minutest of quantities, and most known forms of anti-matter have very short lifetimes (Of the order of a few milliseconds to a few seconds.). It is virtually impossible for mankind to create enough anti-matter, and keep it in existence for long enough to use it in a reaction engine to generate gravity waves that would have enough power to propel a large mass any great distance.

In part two of this article, I will go into further detail of how a matter/anti-matter reaction engine could be used as a power source used by UFOs, and also how such reactions can be used to form gravitational waves.

(Footnote: In my previous article printed in the January 99 issue of the YUFOS magazine, there was a major typo in a rather important place in the last section of the article, which appeared sometime between my sending it to DB and the article being printed. Where I discuss the possible cover-up of UFOs, it should read:

"There has been NO government cover-up of the existence of extra-terrestrial Unidentified Flying Objects." Not, "There has been government " ..

The mistake is fairly obvious (and confusing) when you read the end of the article, and something I wanted to draw attention to, lest people think I'm utterly insane and with no grasp of coherent English. Then again, since most people believe that there *is* a government cover-up, you probably think I'm utterly insane for suggesting there isn't!

Just wanted to clear that up! Iain Mack)

EDITOR's NOTE

OOOPs! Sorry Ian. Obviously there was some explanation for what happened. Either:

1) An expert 'Hacker' employed by some ultra-top secret quasi

-governmental/military Agency many levels above Top Secret remotely accessed my computer files and subtly altered them in an attempt to drive a wedge between myself and Iain, and ultimately debunk his excellent work

2) Using some highly-advanced and utterly alien Mind Control technique, a 'Tall Grey' possessed my body without my knowledge and caused me to forget to type the vital word, in order to continue to hide their existence and aid them in their bid to conquer our world through an insidious manipulation of our DNA...

Or

3) I made a cock-up.

Which one do YOU think is the answer?

*** * NEXT MEETING * ***

Tuesday 9th March 1999

7:00-10:00pm

The Three Cranes

Queen Street,

Sheffield City Centre

A PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATION OF THE BARILOCHE CASE

by Professor Oscar A. Uriondo
(Thanks to Mrs. Eileen Fletcher for
providing this article)

Professor Uriondo is one of the pioneers of UFO research in Argentina. He was a professor of Geography, a librarian and also studied Natural Sciences. He was a member of several scientific institutions. Was a director of CEFAL. He has authored several books and articles on the subject as well as an exhaustive catalogue of Type 1 cases in Argentina. He is presently an honourable member of the Argentine Network of Ufology (RAO). Undoubtedly, along with Oscar Galindez, he is the most recognised UFO analyst of the seventies and eighties and he is still contributing his knowledge to the present generations of ufologists.

The so-called Bariloche case of July 31, 1995 is considered, with reason, as one of the most important in the history of the UFO phenomenon in Argentina. It's details have been widely and thoroughly made public by investigator Juan Pablo Gomez at RAO's June 1997 meeting in Mar Del Plata, (and appeared on SIGHTINGS and elsewhere.)

An extremely skeptical perspective tried to explain the Bariloche sightings from a conventional and psychological viewpoint, aducing witnesses' stress or emotional shock. This interpretation can be attributed as follows:

The flight over mountain areas, together with the memory of "terrible accidents" in the San Carlos de Bariloche airport caused a lot of stress in the pilot of the AR-674 flight, Commander Jorge Polanco, to the point of his imagining that an "ambiguous light" (of unknown nature) that appeared in the Eastern horizon, was an unknown flying object. Polanco's perturbed impression was passed on to the other

crew members, to the control tower personnel, and to the pilots of the Gerdarmerie plane who "started to dwell on the hypothesis that there is an unidentified traffic in the area." The other sightings in this case were only a consequence of this situation of shared stress.

In our opinion, the hypothesis we just presented suffers from severe logical failures and does not fit the firsthand data obtained during this investigation. In the first place, the route from Buenos Aires to Bariloche does not cross mountain areas; the first chains appear to the West as can easily be seen on any map. The assumption of a stressful situation does not coincide with the real geomorphical scenery in the area. We must remember that the Bariloche airport was built on top of a plateau at an altitude of approximately 800 metres above sea level, called the Pampa of Nahuel Huapi. But neither would there be a cause for stress should the airlines fly over the mountains (they do not), because the pilots are used to these kinds of flights which are routine to them.

Second, Commander Polanco was not the first one to see the "light" at 11:00 hours, but his co-pilot Dortona saw it (almost at the same time as flight engineer Jorge Allende) and alerted the others. It was also Dortona who talked to the Bariloche tower asking what kind of phenomenon that was, and received a negative reply: it was neither a plane nor a helicopter. That means that the idea of an "unknown traffic" did not come out of the supposedly perturbed mind of Commander Polanco, but as an objective fact, in accordance with the technical logs of the airport staff.

Besides it is not true that the configuration of the green and orange lights that accompanied the descent of flight AR-674 without altering their relative positions-like a gestalt- was seen only by Commander Polanco. On the contrary, the other crew members of the Boeing also had perceptions, not identical, but similar. Consequently, it is erroneous and unfair to focus on Polanco and on his

hypothetical psychopathological problems (the unfounded psychologization of UFO cases is one of the favourite resources of the skeptics) as a way to "explain" the phenomena in Bariloche.

A detailed study of the protagonists of the Bariloche incident showed us that the intensity of the emotional responses in each case correlates closely with the strangeness level of the phenomenon they saw.

As to flight GN-705, when the crew members first tuned in on the radio communications between the airline and the control tower regarding the unknown "traffic", they were uneasy and concerned because they did not know the altitude of the phenomenon nor its unpredictable activity, and they feared an eventual collision. When they saw the amber light, their insecure feelings were immediately replaced by reassurance, maybe because the motions of this phenomenon did not seem to be random but controlled. Finally, once the observation ended and the "light" flew off, the pilots did no longer concern themselves with the subject and all their attention was turned to the sanitary emergency job they had to complete. Only the next day, when Commander Cipuzac saw and heard pilot Polanco being interviewed on TV Station ATC 24 did the reporter's requests begin.

With regard to the crew of the Boeing 727, from an initial attitude of intrigue they went on to be alarmed at what they considered to be a possible collision with the unidentified traffic. But afterwards, the interruption at close range in their visual field of a strange luminous phenomenon, worried the witnesses in different ways according to each one's personality. However, (and in spite of the fact that the sudden blackout at the airport also occurs at that moment) the pilots control their emotions and acting calmly and professionally, they end their flight without any problems.

For the witnesses of Dina Huapi, Mr and Mrs Cabral, their main feelings caused by the sightings were those of curiosity and surprise, never fear. and something similar happened with the operators and technicians at the airport.

THE ESCALADE OF HYPOTHESIS

Another important aspect that we noticed as a common denominator is that all the main witnesses experienced the well-known psychological process of *assimilation*: that is the witnesses try at first to compare their observations to what has already been accepted as usual and conventional. But then the witness is forced to change his initial judgement on the basis of a critical attitude, after testing and rejecting different successive interpretations, and ends up admitting the existence of a mysterious event, something he had never seen before.

Based on this recurring aspect, we will now review the sequence of events reported the night of July 31, 1995 in the Bariloche area.

Dina Huapi: The two witnesses saw from their automobile a very bright light suspended above the Nahuel Huapi Lake. At first they thought it was a plane: "Stop, stop, look at that strange light on that plane!" Mr. Silverio Cabral told his wife. Then, the immobility, the silence and certain luminous features of the phenomenon make them reject that first interpretation. "Oh my God, what is that?", cried Mrs. Berta. Only the next morning, when they tuned in to a local radio station did both witnesses connect their experience to the appearance of a UFO.

AR-674 flight: the crew observed a "traffic" towards the Southeast (at "11") on an apparent collision course, At first they thought the light in question was a plane with radio trouble, for which reason it was not answering the control tower. Then, while the events were taking place they began to doubt the idea, to suspect its true nature and to worry about the activity of the unknown object. The words "flying

saucer" were mentioned only when the object placed itself alongside the plane to the right. Before seeing the phenomenon personally, Commander Polanco believed the co-pilot was joking - the copilot was the first to see the object and tell the crew, and even then with its anomalous configurations of lights, it was quite difficult for him to accept its existence.

GN-705 flight: the first impression of the pilots when a flashing amber light overshot them horizontally was that they had a fighter jet in front of them. But when the light performed a series of physically impossible manoeuvres, the idea of a UFO in the strict sense of the word finally prevailed.

The picture we have just painted confirms that in all cases the witnesses have, as a primary reaction, tried to find a conventional answer to their experiences and then, through the so-called 'escalade of hypotheses' (Hynek), i.e. going step by step towards an increased conceptual complexity, they finally accepted that they were not faced with an ordinary stimulus but with an undeniably anomalous phenomenon.

Thus, we are not in the prescience of contactees that long for an encounter with the Space Brothers; nor of people who, moved by mysterious impulses, go to certain places where they observe the presence of *ships from outer space*; nor of self-acclaimed groups that through 'mantras' or other ways of spiritual purification invoke the appearance of extraterrestrial craft, intelligent lights or quasi-angelical beings. Instead we see that the witnesses of the Bariloche case are normal people who without foreseeing or wishing for it, were suddenly immersed in strange, disconcerting and perturbing events while they were carrying out normal and everyday activities.

Credit: Mrs. Ruth Gerstel, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Translation: Jane Thomas Guma, Glendale, Arizona, USA

YUFOS magazine

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Vol 1#4 (Sept 1997) *Men In Black, Budd Hopkins Interviewed*

Vol 1 #5 (Oct 1997) *Matthew Williams On-line, John Mack interview*

Vol 1 #6 (Nov 1997) *Alien Emryos, Bob Dean Interview, Diamond UFO in Sheffield*

Vol 1 #7 (Dec 1997) *Micheal Lindermann Online*

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FINNISH AIR FORCE IN UFO DOGFIGHT?

Joseph Trainor reports: Ufologists in Finland are looking into a reported air battle between a Finnish jet fighter and a squadron of five UFOs.

According to Lars Osterman, the dogfight took place on March 31, 1997, in northern Finland. Local researchers learned of it when the pilot, whose name has been kept under wraps, phoned a radio talk show and reportedly said he was "having trouble dealing with" the experience.

The fighter was an F-18A Hornet of the Suomen Ilmavartiolaitos (Finnish Air Force), which was posted to the Lapin Lennosto (Far North Air Department) air base at Rovaniemi, 400 kilometers (240 miles) north of Helsinki.

The F-18 took off on "a routine 960-kilometer patrol of the border" with Russia. As the jet flew over the frozen tundra southeast of Lake Inarijärvi, the pilot spotted three discoid UFOs flying in a northeasterly direction. Going in for a closer look, the pilot saw that "there seemed to be five saucers, instead of just three."

He then radioed Rovaniemi and advised them of the situation. Lapin Lennosto Flight Control ordered him to intercept the objects. The five UFOs, described by the pilot as "glowing orange objects," veered sharply to the Northwest.

The F-18 pursued them to Ivalo, a city 120 miles north of Rovaniemi. From there, the F-18 chased the saucers west to Inari, 24 miles to the Northwest. Then the saucers darted eastward, high above Lake Inarijärvi. The pilot told Flight Control that the UFOs were breaking formation and requested permission to fire at them.

Flight Control responded "Permission granted. Fire at will."

The pilot got behind one glowing saucer and lined it up with the reticule on his

windshield "heads up" display. But instead of picking up the "target acquisition tone" in his earphones, he heard the raucous honk of an alarm.

All at once, the targeting computer went off-line. The "heads up" display disappeared. The F-18's firing system for the 20 mm cannon was also down.

Instantly the pilot hit the "arming" switch for his air-to-air missiles. The red Malfunction light began blinking on the dashboard. The saucers regrouped and flew away to the East "at Mach 4 or 5. They had an orange glow around them." None of the F-18's flight control systems were affected, and the pilot returned safely to Rovaniemi. "They tested the computers for days but could find nothing wrong with them,"

The saucers were last seen heading for Talvikula, Russia

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CLOSE-UP NORTH: "THE NORTHERN LIGHTS"

(BBC 2, Thursday 28 January 1999)

REVIEW by Andrew Ashmore

Well we'd waited long enough for the airing of this documentary on UFOs and what they mean to the people of Yorkshire.

I was hoping for a sensible presentation of the subject with none of the usual media cliques and ridicule.

Well let's face it, I was really watching it to see how many times my ugly mug was shown! (Surely we were all doing the same?)

It started well enough with a shot of a disc in daylight that wobbles about and may look a little fake to some people. The only thing is that this object passes behind a

building - sort of ruling out the idea of a model hung on a piece of string in front of the camera. The wobbling motion has been described in several UFO sightings, So far so good, but then things were about to change.

The next sequence was taken at the 17th International UFO Conference in Leeds. Here we had an opening shot of a car number plate showing the letters U-F-O in it's display. What with this and intermingled shots of Alien figurines I was becoming a little wary.

We then moved on to eye-witness accounts of sightings over Yorkshire by people who were probably not connected with the topic of UFOs.

The first witness described her experience, which was fine until the picture cut to a shot of a plane passing overhead as if to offer an explanation.

The second person- a man- described the sight of bright lights moving very slowly. This was conveniently supervened by a an aircraft complete with radiant landing lights coming in to land at Leeds/Bradford Airport, as if to suggest an explanation.

And finally the woman who described strange lights in the sky that "didn't move" was closely followed by images of the Moon and a bright star or planet such as Venus.

The programme seemed to be answering the mystery not by words but by pictures.

This was starting to get right up my back by now.

But just when you thought things couldn't get any worse we had the first of three sceptical views by David Clarke.

Things were beginning to look bad, but then the attention switched to Bradford and the headquarters of the International UFO Research Network. Here they interviewed Russell Kellett in his home. Just as he started to explain about the

group and his own personal experiences the camera cut to a vertical panning shot of his vast collection of *X-Files* videos. No doubt a ploy to make us think that he watches so much fiction we shouldn't take him too seriously.

After a brief talk from Tony Dodd on his own encounter when he was a copper we were presented with another sceptical remark from David Clarke, only this time he went as far as to say that there are "a lot of seriously disturbed people involved in UFO research".

This is just the sort of negative publicity that our subject needs at present, spoken by someone who closes his mind to any explanation other than ones that are within his own narrow-minded view.

We moved swiftly on to the Melvin Ford case. Russell Kellett and his mate Keith were on their way to interview Ford about his bizarre acquaintance with a tall woman and a cloaked dwarf on a lane near his home. The scene of these two chaps was rather lengthy and at times you were wishing the camera to turn off as there were toe-curling silent pauses in between conversation. Finally, Russell says that he thinks that they are going the wrong way, leaving the suggestion that they were idiots who couldn't even find the witness never mind belong to a field which was rapidly gaining ridicule the longer this documentary went on.

At last- it was our turn to become famous. A YUFOS group meeting. I was too busy looking out for myself on camera to be interested in what was actually being said! Call me selfish but /I haven't had fame since I won a prize of 50 pence in the Junior Star joke competition in 1976!

Russell and Keith duly turned up at Melvin's house for the interview showing I.D. cards at the door. It was a wonder that they weren't *X-Files* I.D. cards with 'Special Agent Mulder' wrote on them to add to the derision that had been made apparent to us.

After a final pooh-poohing session from David Clarke it was time for the 'Grande Finale'- the YUFOS skywatch. The cars turned up and Anne-Marie's sultry tones graced the soundtrack- describing how she first became interested in the subject. Yet again I was too busy trying to see myself to take much notice of anything else. It wasn't until later when I played back the recording that I noticed that at the point where Anne-Marie mentioned sitting on a windowsill as a child watching the stars that I realised that the background music had changed to the theme '*When You Wish Upon a Star*'

This was the final 'light-hearted' event in what for me was another pooh-pooh session. Alright, it wasn't nearly as bad as the Jonathan Ross programme -you know, THAT programme- but even without a narrator, the answers to questions and views on people like us were done visually instead.

A bit of a disappointment then. However, I shall keep the tape for posterity as I think we all probably will, if for nothing more than to re-live our five minutes of fame.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

by **Dave Baker, YUFOS Chairman
and editor**

The BBC learned of YUFOS through Richard Moss, who had advertised in the news-stand magazine *Alien Encounters* as an independent researcher. The Beeb were looking specifically for Yorkshire-based UFO groups and investigators, and contacted Richard for information. By then, he had joined up with YUFOS, and so it was arranged after a phone call to myself, that the programme's producer should come down to a meeting and 'sound us out'.

Myself and Richard talked for a long time to Roger The Producer and his free-lance cameraman about UFOS and specifically, the way that the subject has been treated in television programmes. We were promised no *X-Files* theme, no tongue-in-cheek

references to Little Green Men, no reporters 'beaming out' through cheap BBC special effects.

And the promise was kept...sort of. We didn't get Mulder and Scully, but we did get Ellen Ripley, as the theme from *Alien* murmured in the background...hmmm.

We stressed that we were a small group in it's infancy, and that if they wanted Alien Abductees or retrieved military documents, they had better look elsewhere.

Roger explained, however that they were not out to make a programme which investigated UFOs, but to show 'Northern People's interest in UFOS' and so a group like ours was ideal.

The skywatch was filmed in June last year, and to all intents and purposes was a 'staged' event in that a small number of the group went up to High Bradfield *specifically to be filmed*.

Apart from re-enacting arriving and getting out of the car three times, nothing was 'scripted' as such. Myself, Richard, Anne-Marie, Andy and the Platten family were interviewed on the dark hillside.

I explained that we were unlikely to see anything that could be even remotely described as a UFO, but the evening would be useful, not only as a social event, but as a learning experience in witnessing the common misidentifications of UFOs by the average man in the street.

We were able to show how mundane objects can be misidentified as UFOS; the distant sight of the police helicopter over Hillsborough, which appeared as an orange ball of light with sweeping searchlight, and a low-altitude aircraft which, as it approached 'head-on', appeared as a silent, unblinking single light, until it was virtually directly overhead.

None of this was used, which, with no commentary, made it appear that we were out in the middle of nowhere looking for aliens.

The BBC then joined our September Meeting, where they interviewed myself, and Richard, filmed a great deal of guest speaker Rory Lushman from the Pendle-Hyndburn UFO Network, and a heated 'debate' on recent UFOS seen over Sheffield.

Richard's intelligent explanation of earth-lights and UFOs in general was completely cut out. Much of my interview and the debate was trimmed. Fair enough.

A few thoughts...

*The only part of Rory's lecture shown focused on his explanation of how he had forgotten his video camera tripod for a skywatch on which he and Eric Morris filmed strange lights on Carlton Moor. Rory related this anecdote partly to explain the shaky camerawork on the video, but also as an example of Sod's Law...and to have a bit of a laugh at his own expense.

But how does that single snippet, viewed by anyone who wasn't at the meeting, appear?

*Was it really necessary to film Dave Clarke in semi-darkness? The intention, I'm sure was to portray him as some sinister debunker, and certainly the 'baddie' of the film. Although I'm sure that Dave's words were as he spoke them and as he intended them, I'm not sure if he expected to be framed with the other segments the way that they were later edited. His 'deranged people involved in Ufology' being immediately followed by Russ and Keith is one example.

As Dave said in an e-mail to me, "I think I'll be off a few Christmas card lists."

*Graham Birdsall of *UFO Magazine* spoke rather condescendingly of local groups as 'amateurish'. Although again, it may be the way it was edited, this is rich coming from the Head of the Quest International Money-Making Machine who started out, not too long ago, like the 'local group' that followed his appearance...us. In fact, the

Birdsall brothers original group was called YUFOS.

On the whole, *The Northern Lights* could have been a lot worse, and I think we have all seen similar shows that are much more horrific than this.

But how did we appear to Joe Public?

To be honest, everyone I spoke to, including those who are not particularly interested in UFOs, or "in the know" said that YUFOS came across rather well, compared to some in the programme.

It afforded us a little publicity, and I have received a number of telephone calls and letters expressing interest in YUFOS, so all is not lost.

And if nothing else, it showed us a real insight into the reality of TV programme making - both the good sides and the bad.

INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK'S DEBUT RELEASE

The Independent UFO Network's first re-launch publication will be a 40 plus page special investigation document entitled THE HOWDEN MOORS INCIDENT concerning the Peak District air crash mystery of March 24, 1997. authored by David Clarke and Martin Jeffries.

If all goes to plan copies should be available by the Southport conference on 27 February (See inside back cover) and all cover price copies sold will be donated to the IUN's set-up fund. The special report will cover all aspects of the case and related incidents including the 1996 mystery crash on the Isle of Lewis.

Included also will be complete witness and emergency services statements, Hansard documents, a complete translation of South Yorkshire Police's log of the incident, and some exclusive new material obtained in the last few days from the Ministry of Defence and HM Coastguard.....David Clarke